ca. Jan. 1842

The letter of the Prophet, Joseph Smith to Miss Nancy Rigdon

Happiness is the object and design of our existence, and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God; but we cannot keep all the commandments without first knowing them, and we cannot expect to know all, or more than we now know, unless we comply with or keep those we have already received! That which is wrong under one circumstance, may be, and often is, right under another. God said, Thou shalt not kill; at another time he said, Thou shalt utterly destroy. This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire. If we seek first the kingdom of God, all good things will be added. So with solomon; first he asked wisdom, and God gave it him, and with it every desire of his heart; even things which might be considered abominable to all who understand the order of Heaven only in part, but which, in reality, were right, because God gave and sanctioned by special revelation. A parent may whip a child, and justly too, because he stole an apple; whereas, if the child had asked for the apple, and the parent had given it, the child would have eaten it with a better appetite; there would have been no stripes; all the pleasures of the apple would have been secured, all the misery of stealing

lost. This principle will justly apply to all of God's dealings with his children. Every thing that God gives us is lawful and right, and it is proper that we should enjoy his gifts and blessings, whenever and wherever he is disposed to bestow; but if we should seize upon those same blessings and enjoyments without law, without revelation, without commandment, those blessings and enjoyments would prove cursings and vexations in the end, and we should have to lie down in sorrow and wailings of everlasting regret. But in obedience there is joy and peace unspotted, unalloyed; and as God has designed our happiness, the happiness of all his creatures, he never has, he never will institute an ordinance or give a commandment to his people that is not calculated in its nature to promote that happiness which he has designed, and which will not end in the greatest amount of good and glory to those who become the recipients of his law and ordinances. Blessings offered, but rejected, are no longer blessings, but become like the talent hid in the earth by the wicked and slothful servant; the proffered good returns to the giver; the blessing is bestowed on those who will receive, and occupy; for unto him that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundantly, but unto him that hath not, or will not receive, shall be taken away that which he hath, or might have had.

Be wise to-day; 'tis madness to defer!
Next day the fatal precedent may plead;
Thus on till wisdom is pushed out of time, into eternity.

Our Heavenly Father is more liberal in his views, and boundless in his mercies and blessings, than we are ready to believe or receive, and, at the same time, is more terrible to the workers of iniquity, more awful in the executions of his punishments, and more ready to detect every false way than we are apt to suppose him to be; he will be inquired of by his children; he says, Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find; but, if ye will take that which is not your own, or which I have not given you, you shall be rewarded according to your deeds; but no good thing will I withhold from them who walk uprightly before me, and do my will in all things; who will listen to my voice and to the voice of my servant whom I have sent; for I delight in those who seek diligently to know my precepts, and abide by the laws of my kingdom; for all things shall be made known unto them in mine own due time, and in the end they shall have joy.

about Jan. 1842.

Joseph's Letter to
Nancy Rigdon

Nauvoo January 5th 1842

Mr Edward Hunter.

Beloved Brother,

I wrote you on the 21 ultimo, in reply to yours of the 27th of October, but lest by any means the letter should fail to reach you I will recapitulate very briefly some important items therein contained,

The power of Attorney was duly executed by Mrs Smith, & forwarded to the Clerks office for seal of state, to be sent, from there direct to you.

The Goods are accepted and will be applied according to your request,

I have purchased 90 acres of woodland, a little up the River; have made proposals to Ole Bull, but am yet waiting his answer, from his eastern correspondent.

Steam Engines & mills of any description will do well here, the more of such things you can bring, the better. — for particulars on the foregoing I would refer you to my letter of the 21. ult which I hope you have received ere this. —

~~The~~

I am happy that it is my privilege to say to you that the Large Nav. Building which I had commenced when you were here, is now completed, and the doors are opened this day, for the sale of goods for the first time. The foundations of the building is somewhat spacious, (as you will doubtless recollect,) for a country store, The principal part of

the building below, which is nearly 10 feet high is devoted exclusively to Shelves & drawers. Except 1 door opening back into the space, on the left of which are the cellar & Chamber Stairs. & on the Right the Counting Room; from the Space at the top of the Chamber Stairs, opens a door into the Large front room, of the same size with the one below. the walls lined with counters, covered with reserve goods.— in front of the stairs opens the door to my Private office, or where I keep the sacred writings, with a window to the South, Overlooking the River below, & the opposite shore for a great distance, which together with the passage of boats in the season thereof, constitutes a peculiarly interesting situation, in prospect, & no less interesting from its retirement from the bustle & confusion of the neighborhood & city. and altogether is a place the Lord is pleased to bless.—

The painting of the store has been executed by Edward Martin and some of our English brethren,— & the counters, drawers— & pillars present a very respectable representation of oak, Mahogany & marble— for a back woods establishment,—

The Lord has blessed our exertions in a wonderful manner, and although some individuals have succeeded in detaining goods, to a considerable amount for the time being, yet we have been enabled to secure goods in the building sufficient to fill all the shelves, & soon as they were completed & have some in reserve, both in loft, & cellar. Our assortment, is tolerably good— very good considering the different purchases made by different individuals, at different times, and under circumstances which controuled their choice to some extent, but, I rejoice

that we have been enabled to do as well as we have, for the hearts of many of the poor brethren & sisters will be made glad, with those comforts which are now within their reach. The store has been filled to overflowing ~~all day~~. & I have stood behind the counter all day myself dealing out goods as steady as any clerk you ever saw & to oblige those who were compelled to go without their usual Christmas & New year dinners for the want of a little Sugar, Molasses, Raisins &c. &c, — & to please myself also for I love to wait upon the Saints, and be a servant to all hoping that I may be exalted in the due time of the Lord.)

It is highly necessary that the store be well supplied with merchandise from this time forward, both for the interest of the church generally — & the comfort of the brethren individually and as expenses have been incurred already to a great amount in building the store, Temple, "Nauvoo House" &c &c — a great many of the goods on hand will have to pass away on orders previous ~~contracts~~ &c. & we shall be obliged to lean upon other resources, to a great extent rather than the profits of goods this winter, to supply a new stock in the spring, & for this reason, as well as those before stated, & also for your gratification in learning of our prosperity, I write you thus early, to desire you to have the money you are to get on the power of Attorney of Mr Smith ready for deposit in Philadelphia, as soon as the rivers shall open, & I sincerely hope & trust that nothing will prevent your getting the money as you expect, so that it may be ready in deposite at Philadelphia, or so that you can meet Mr Whiting at Phila, or some one who may go for the goods, at a time which may be appointed hereafter. So that we may have an

early supply, of a Spring selection, as you are aware that the first opening of a new assortment would be much to the advantage of the establishment, and I wish you to give me the earliest information possible, of any thing new, in relation to this matter, | With sentiments of high consideration I remain your Brother in Christ,

Joseph Smith
~~p. W. Richards, Scribe~~

Joseph Smith
To
Edw? Hunter

Jan 15 1842

Pointer

Edward Hunter Esqr
West Nauvoo
Shetler County
Illinois

Joseph Smith
to
Edwd Hunter

Jan 7 5 1842

Painter

Nauvoo
JAN 7
ILLINOIS

Elder Edward Hunter
Nauvoo
Hancock County
Illinois

Joseph Smith
Jan 7 1842

Dear Brother Hunter

as you are aware that
early today, of a spring selection,
the first opening of a most important work
of the ordinances, and of the
revelation, of which you are the
earliest instrument, and
to this, brother Hunter, I
commit you

Your brother in the
new and everlasting
covenant
Joseph Smith
Hiram Smith
Jos. W. Coolidge

early supply, of a Spring selection, as you are aware that the first opening of a new assortment would be much to the advantage of the establishment, and I wish you to give me the earliest information possible, of any thing need, in relation to this matter. With sentiments of high consideration I remain your Brother in Christ,

Joseph Smith
~~p. W. Richards Scribe~~

Joseph Smith
To
Peter Hawes

Paid

Jan 7th 1842

Elder Hawes
West Nauvoo
Chester County
Ill

Nauvoo Ill
Jan 7

Nauvoo 17 Jany 42

Doctor Galland

Dear Sir,

I am very much in want of assistance at this particular time, and if you can make it convenient to call on me within two or three days I shall be much pleased, if not I wish you would send by the bearer all the funds your possibility can as my wants are very great

Respectfully Your Obt

Joseph Smith

7

President Joseph Smith -

Sheetrock Jan 18th 1842

Dr Sir -

On the receipt of the above note I am at a loss to determine whether you intend it as an absolute dun or as an appeal to my liberality to advance funds for your relief - but let it be either case, I assure you Sir, it is not in my power to advance at this time 5 Dollars untill I obtain it from some of my creditors or in some other way - As to coming to Nauvoo, I have long desired to come there, and shall certainly do so, as soon as I can so arrange the matters which I am now engaged in, as to be able consistently to leave here, in the meanwhile believe me very respectfully yours

N. Galland -

Jan 17. 1842

Joseph Smith
to
J. Galland
&
reply. Jan 18.

Joseph Smith. to Dr Galland
& his answer - Jan. 17. 818
2 1842

Keokuk

Dr J. Galland
Danville

Jan 17. 1842

Joseph Smith
to
J. Galland

reply. Jan 18.

Joseph Smith. to Dr Galland
& his answer - Jan. 17. 1842
2

Keokuk

Dr J. Galland
Danville

Nauvoo January 26 1842

Mr. Edward Hunter.

Dear Sir

I write you at this moment to let you know that I have been obliged to transfer your note of $1100 to Messrs William & Wilson Law, on settlement as collateral security. Therefore you will please keep & forward eleven hundred dollars of the money you will get on the Letter of Attorney from Mrs Smith to Messrs Laws for the redemption of your note which I transferred to them, & I will make the application of the same to the purposes you have desired & according to my letters to you of the 5th of Jany & 21st December, in which I mentioned particularly about the situation of affairs here, and also about the forwarding of the Letter of Attorney from Mrs Smith according to your request.

Do not suppose Sir that I have made the above transfer to crow upon you, far from it, it has been a matter of necessity & will not injure you, as the money you get on the power of Attorney, is coming to me, — and if a part is applied to liquidate your note to Law; & the note returns to my hands it will be the same to you as though the transfer had not been made, & the remainder you will please to retain ~~as~~ according to my last letter.

The Church is in a prosperous condition, & the Saints are exerting themselves with all their powers to complete the Temple, The health of the City is good.

I am paying for your house, in goods & also the land which I bought of Robinson for you. Mr Robinson has passed me other land in addition, which I shall secure so soon as I

draw the writings. — We have no answer from Col. Atchison yet, though I think there is no doubt I shall get the land. —

With my best wishes I remain
Your Brother in Christ
Joseph Smith.

N. K. Richards Scribe

Joseph Smith to Edwd Hunter

Jany 26 1842

Edward Hunter Esqr
Nauvoo Hancock County
Illinois

Joseph Smith
to
Edwd Hunter

Jany 26 1842

Edward Hunter Esqr
West Nantmeal
Chester County
Pennsylvania

NAUVOO
FEB
1
1842.

Nauvoo City March 9th 1842.

Bro. Edward Hunter

Dear Sir

I yesterday had the pleasure of Receiving your Letter of Feb. 10 — am much pleased that you have effected a Sale, and are so soon to be with us &c. —

I have purchased the lands you desired, and will use my influence to have the improvements made which you wish, Bro. Weiler rec'd your letter and says he will do what he can to have all done,

The Power of Attorney I will forward to you with all its due forms

The Eight hundred dollars for the Temple & Nauvoo House I wish you to bring in goods, for which I will give you Stock & Credit for as soon as Received,

I wish you to invest as much money as you probably can in goods to bring here, and I will purchase them of you, when you come, if we can agree on terms, or you can have my new brick store to rent, I wish the business kept up by some one, in the building as it is a very fine house, and cost me

a handsome amount to build it — some eight or ten thousand dollars worth of goods would be of great advantage to this place, therefore if you or some of the Northern would bring them on, I have no doubt but ~~that~~ I can arrange for them in some way to your (or their) advantage,

As to money matters here, the State Bank is down, and we cannot tell you what Bank would be safe a month hence, I would say that Gold and Silver is the only safe money a man can keep these times, you can sell specie here for more premium than you have to give, therefore there would be no loss, and it would be safe, the Bank you deposit in might fail before you had time to draw out again —

I am now very busily engaged in Translating, and therefore cannot give as much time to Public matters as I could wish, but will nevertheless do what I can to forward your affairs

I will send you a memorandum of such goods as will suit this market,

Yours Affectionately Joseph Smith

March 11. After diligent enquiry I have learned that the presiding judge of this circuit is a great distance from this. & it will not be possible according to present appearances. to get an acknowledement of the Letter of Attorney until the forme part of May. If your Sir. & the parties concerned will proceed with the business just as though you had the Letter. For the purpose of expediting the business. I pledge my honor that a duly authenticated Letter of Attorney shall be forthe coming at the earliest date possible. & by so doing you will confer a favor on your fellow.

Joseph Smith

W. Richards. Scribe

Bro. Hunter

Dear Sir

I am happy to inform you that we are enjoying general good health in Nauvoo, and are greatly blest, &c. —

If you bring out an engine perhaps we would buy it of you as we are building a steam mill and may not be suited before you come the most suitable kind would be 9 inch Cylin=der, about 4½ to 5 ft. stroke, a double flue boiler 20 to 22 ft. long & 40 to 44 in. diameter, if it has been in use a year or two it is none the worse, and would come cheaper, large engines are not profitable, about a 12 horse power is best —. If you could bring Bro. Joseph a lot of goods it were well, as they would help him, do the place good, and be no loss to you. —

Yours truly W. W. Law.

Joseph Smith March 9 1842
to
Edward Hunter

Mr. Edw.d Hunter
Bath Montreal
Athens Co
Pennsylvania

I wrote you some time ago to deposite the amt
of your note ($1100,00) in the Bank in Phil.a where
you left my name, should that Bank not be safe
get the paper with my name on it and deposite in
some safe Bank, — or else bring the money with
you when you come. yours Wm Law.

Joseph Smith to Edward Hunter March 9 1842

Mr. Edwd. Hunter
West Nantmeal
Chester Co
Pennsylvania

Sister you have to deposit the amt of your note ($1100,00) in the Bank in Phila. when you get your name, that is to be safe. Write that Bank not to be safe get the paper with my name on it and deposite in some safe Bank, or else bring the money with you when you come. Yours Truly
Joseph Smith

See DHC. V, 6.

Nauvoo. May 13 1842

H. R. Hatch Kiss Esqr.

Dear Sir

I proceed without delay to give a hasty reply to yours of the 12th ultimo. just received. My engagements will not admit of a lengthy detail of events & circumstances which have transpired to bring about that state of things which now exists in this place, so before you receive this you will probably be apprized of the failure of myself & brethren to ~~operate~~ our designs, & my paying off our contracts. or in other words that we have been compelled to pay our debts by the most popular method. (A.C.) by petitioning for the privilege of General Bankruptcy, a principle so popular at the present moment throughout the union.

A pressure of business has been sufficient excuse for not giving you earlier notice, although it could been of no real use to you. yet I wish you to understand our intentions to you & your company. — & why we have taken the course we have. You are aware, Sir, in some measure of the embarrassments under which we have labored through the influence of Mobs & designing men. & the ~~contract~~ disadvantageous circumstances under which we have been compelled to contract debts in order to our existence both as individuals & as a Society. & it is on account of this as much as a pressure on us for debts absolutely unjust. in themselves

that we have been compelled to resort to the course we have to make a general settlement. & this we defered till the last moment, hoping that some thing would turn in our favor, so that we might be saved the painful necessity of resorting to such measures, to accomplish which Justice demanded a very different course from those who are justly our debtors: but demand in vain. We have been compelled to the course we have pursued. & you are aware, sir, that all have to fare alike in such cases. But, Sir, you have one, yes two things to comfort you. Our faith in intentions & good feeling remain the same to all our creditors & to none more than yourself. & I, I think there is property sufficient in the inventory to pay every debt, and some to spare, according to the valuing of our Solicitor & the good judgment of others. & if the court will allow us some one for assignee who will do justice to the creditors, we confidently believe that yourself & all others will get their compensation in full. & we have enough left for one loaf more to each of our families. — Yes I have no doubt that you will yet, & in a short time be enabled to have your pay in full in the way I have before proposed, or some other equally advantageous, — but many is out of sight, it might as well be out of mind, for it cannot be paid. — Rest assured Dear Sir that no influence or exertion I can yet render shall be wanting to

give you satisfaction & liquidate your claims
but for a little season you are aware that all
proceedings are staid — but I will seek the
earliest moment to acquaint you with any thing
more on this matter. —

I remain Sir with Sentiments
of Respect your friend & well wisher
Joseph Smith

per W Richards. — clerk

25

Horace R. Hotchkiss Esq.

Fair Haven.
Near New Haven

Connecticut

1836 Aug 25 1836
1837
1835

May 17th 1842.

Br. James Sloan,

You will be so good as to permit Gen. Bennett to withdraw his Name from the Church Record, if he desires to do so, and this with the best of feelings towards you and General Bennett.

Joseph Smith.

In accordance with the above I have permitted General Bennett to withdraw his Membership from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, this 17th day of May 1842. the best of feelings subsisting between all Parties.

City of Nauvoo.
May 17th 1842.

James Sloan.
General Church Clerk, & Recorder.

Copy

Genl. Bennett has the Original, which was signed by Joseph Smith.

May 17. 1842

Joseph Smith

to

James Sloan

reply

Nauvoo June 23rd 1842

Sister Jennetta Richards;

Agreably to your request, in the midst of all the bustle, and business of the day, and the care of all the Churches both at home and abroad, I now imbrace a moment to address a few words to you thinking peradventure it may be a consolation to you to know that you too are remembered by me as well as all the saints. my hearts desire and prayr to God is all the day long for all the saints and in an especial and peticular manner for those whom he hath chosen and anointed to bear the heaviest burthens in the heat of the day among which number is your husband received a man in whom I have the most implicit confidence and trust you say I have got him so I have in the which I rejoice, for he has done me great good and taken a great burthen off my shoulders since his arrival in Nauvoo never did I have greater intimacy with any man than with him may the blessings of Elijah crown his head forever and ever. we are about to send him in a few days after his dear familey he shall have our prayrs fervently for his safe arrival to their imbraces and may God speed his journey and return him quickly to our society. and I want you below Sister, to be a Genral in this matter, in helping him along. which I know you will be able to teach you many things which you never have heard you may have implicit confidence in the same. I have heard much about you by the twelve and in consequence of the great friendship that exists between your husband and me and the information they all have given me of your virtue and strong attachment to the truth of the work of God in the last Days I have formed a new strong Brotherly friendship and attachment for you in the bonds of the Gosple, although I never saw you I shall be exceedingly glad to see you face to face and be able to administer in the name of the Lord some of the words of Life to your consolation and I hope that you may be kept steadfast in the faith even unto the end, I want you should give my love and tender reguard to Br. Richards familey and those who are friendly enough to mete enquire after me: in that region of country, not having but little time to apportion to anyone & having stolen this opportunity I therefore subscribe myself in haste your most obedient Brother in the fulness of the Gosple Joseph Smith

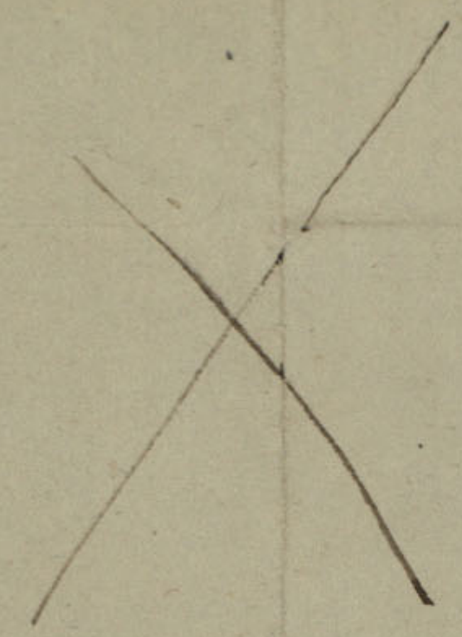
P.S. Bro Richards having been with me for

Mrs. Jennetta Richards
Richmond
Massachusetts

Letter
from
Joseph Smith to Jennetta Richards
June 23, 1842

a long time can give you any information which you need and will be an-
ll cheer me. I shall be ready whenever for his return he is a good help to me-
in my calling.—

Letter from Joseph Smith to Jennetta Richards — June 23. 1842



a long time can give you any information which you need and will tell you all about me. I shall be ready at your for his return he is a great friend to me in my labours.—

Mr. Jennetta Richards
Nauvoo
Hancock
Illinois

Letter
from
Joseph Smith to Jennetta Richards

June 23. 1842

a long time can give you any information which you need and will tell you all about me. I shall be very anxious for his return he is a great help to me in my labours.—

Mr. Jennetta Richards
Manchester
England

OFFICE PHONES, WENTWORTH 5313-7500-2802

RESIDENCE PHONE BEVERLY 8876

CHARLES W. OLSEN, M. D.

6558 S. HALSTED ST.

HOURS: 2-4 AND 7-9 DAILY

EXCEPT WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY NIGHT

OTHER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

CHICAGO 21, ILLINOIS

COPY OF NAUVOO LETTER.

Nauvoo June 30th, 1842.

Genl. James Arlington Bennett:

Dear Sir: Permit me to introduce to your kindness and attention, Dr. Willard Richards, my private secretary, and General Business Agent. Any attention or favors conferred upon him, I shall esteem in the same degree as though conferred upon myself.

We have been under the necessity of publishing the character and conduct, of our Major General Dr. John Cook Bennett, a circumstance which has been to us truly unpleasant; but his conduct whilst among us at Nauvoo, and up to the present time, has been such as to make it a matter od duty, which I consider that we owe to the public generally, and could not be dispensed with. As. Dr. Richard is conversant with all the facts relative to his case, it would be superfluous to state them in this brief communication. Any information you may desire on the subject, or concerning the Legion, the progress of the City, prospects of business, or any other matter he will cheerfully give, and to greater satisfaction than could be done with pen.

I should be highly pleased if you should see proper to open a correspondence with me as soon as convenient, and also to receive a visit from you whenever circumstances shall render it consistent.

You will please accept of my kind thanks for the several instances of remembrance from your pen, both as poetic effusions, and in defense of the glorious principles of truth, and I pray my heavenly Father that his spirit may continue to rest upon you forever.

I am Sir, Yours resp

JOSEPH SMITH

MAYOR

Genl. Jas. Arlington Bennett, Esqr.

Nauvoo June 30th 1842

Genl. James Arlington Bennett, Esq.

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I am Sir, yours respt
Joseph Smith
Mayor

James

Genl. John Arlington Bennett, Esq.

155

Nauvoo July 16th 1842

Dr Bro. Page.

Yours dated June 3rd has been received together with the articles p bro Edwd Hunter. Circumstances has hitherto prevented our forwarding an answer

We are glad to hear of your success in the ministry and as you requested the prayers of the saints have been raised in your behalf - we trust there will be a great ingathering in that region. —

We are now very much in need of a few articles for the Temple which I will name and if it can be accomplished it would relieve us greatly if you could arrange it so as to send them very soon. We want 1 Keg of Nails 10d - 1 Keg of 8d -, 1 Keg of 6d - 1 Keg of 4d & 1 Keg of 3d and more of 6d, 8d, 10d if you can get them Also a few Groces of Brads 1½ inch, 1 inch & ½ inch

We also want very much a few Kegs of the very best blasting powder for blasting Rock &c —

We know not what privilege you have of sending these articles but hope you will let us know as soon as convenient. We are hindered at present for want of them.

The health of our city continues good. there are some few cases of sickness.

You no doubt have heard of Genl Bennetts conduct we think he cannot do much —

Time prevents me writing much at presently. Please accept our warmest respects in the C. C

Joseph Smith
by Wm Clayton Clerk

Head Quarters of Nauvoo Legion
August 16-1842

Major Gen. Law.

Beloved brother and friend

Those few lines which I received from you written on the 15th. was to me like apples of Gold in pictures of Silver. I rejoice with exceeding great joy to be associated in the high and responsible stations which we hold, whose mind and feelings and heart is so congenial with my own. I love that soul that is so nobly entabernacled in that clay of yours, may God Almighty grant, that it may be satiated with seeing a fulfilment of every virtuous ~~[illegible]~~ and manly desire that you possess. May we be able to triumph gloriously over those who seek our destruction and overthrow, which I believe we shall. The news you wrote me was more favorable than that which was communicated by the brethren. They seemed a little agitated for my safety and advise me for the Pine Woods. But I succeeded admirably in calming all their fears. But nevertheless as I said in my former letter, I was willing to exile myself for months and years, if it would be for the safety and welfare of the people; and I do not know but it would be as well for me to take a trip to the Pine Countries and remain until arrangements can be made for my most perfect safety when I return. These are therefore to confer with you on this subject as I want to have a concert of action in every thing that I do. If I new that they would oppress me alone, and let the rest of you dwell peaceably and quietly, I think it would be the wisest plan to absent myself for a little season if by that means we can prevent the profusion of blood.

Please write and give me your mind on that subject and all other information that has come to hand to day and what are the signs of the times.

I have no news for I am where I cannot get much all is quiet and peaceable around. I therefore wait with earnest expectation for your advices. I am anxious to know your opinions on any course that I may see proper to take, for in the multitude of counsel there is safety.

I add no more, but subscribe myself your faithful and most obedient servant friend and brother Joseph Smith

Lieu^t Gen of Nauvoo Legion of Illinois Militia

Copy

Maj Gen Law
August 18th 1842
1842

Smith, Joseph
1842

Smith, Joseph
1842

I have no news for I am where I cannot get much all is quiet and peaceable around. I therefore wait with earnest expectation for your advices. I am anxious to know your opinions on any course that I may see proper to take, for in the multitude of council there is safety.

I add no more, but subscribe myself your faithful and most obedient servant friend and brother Joseph Smith
Lieu^t Gen of Nauvoo Legion of Illinois Militia

Copy

Maj Gen Law
Aug^st 15th 1842
1842

Smith, Joseph
1842

Smith, Joseph
1842

Nauvoo August 18th 1842

Dear, and Beloved, Brother and Sister, Whitney, and &c.—

I take this opportunity to communicate some of my feelings, privately at this time, which I want you three Eternally to keep in your own bosoms; for my feelings are so strong for you since what has passed lately between us, that the time of my absence from you seems so long, and dreary, that it seems, as if I could not live long in this way: and if you three would come and see me in this my lonely retreat, it would afford me great relief, of mind, if those with whom I am allied, do love me, now is the time to afford me succour, in the days of exile, for you know I foretold you of these things. I am now at Carlos Graingers, just back of Brother Hyrams farm, it is only one mile from town, the nights are very pleasant, indeed, all three of you can come and see me in the pore part of the night, let Brother Whitney come a little a head, and rock at the South East corner of the house at the window; it is next to the cornfield, I have a room entirely by myself, the whole matter can be attended to with most perfect safty, I know it is the will of God that you should comfort me now in this time of affliction, or not at all now is the

time or never, but I have no need of saying any such thing, to you, for I know the goodness of your hearts, and that you will do the will of the Lord, when it is made known to you; the only thing to be careful of, is to find out when Emma comes then you cannot be safe, - but when she is ~~not here~~, there is the most perfect safety: only be careful to escape observation, as much as possible, I know it is a heroick undertaking; but so much the greater friendship, and the more joy, when I see you I will tell you all my plans, I cannot write them on paper, burn this letter as soon as you read it, keep all locked up in your breasts, my life depends up on it, one thing I want to see you for is to get the fulness of my blessing sealed upon our heads, &c. you will pardon me for my earnestness on this subject when you consider how lonesome I must be, your good feelings know how to make every allowance for me, I close my letter, I think Emma won't come tonight if she dont dont fail to come to night, I subscribe myself your most obedient, and affectionate, Companion, and friend.

Joseph Smith

Nauvoo Sept. 7th 1842

Dr & respected Brother

Your friendly communication of the 8th Ult. has been put into my hands.

With regard to the subject treated upon viz. the covering of the Roof of the Temple with Tin &c I have only to say that we have not come to any conclusion what kind of mettal or material we shale use as yet, and I think it would be best not to be in haste about paying money for those materials for some time yet as there are many other things which are far more needful for the Temple at the present time. By the time the material will be wanted for the roof, we shale have had the privilege of mature reflection and as we shale have constant communication between here and England there will be little difficulty in getting it when wanted if we conclude to fetch it from there.

I shale have a Deed made out for the six acres of land according to your instructions which I will forward to you for signature and acknowledgement by Elder Adams when he returns, which he will do soon.

I am happy to be able to state that the Temple progresses steadily, notwithstanding the pressure of the times and the wrath of our enemies.

the Missourians, together with some of the principal officers of this State, and especially Governor Carlin; are again disgracing themselves by persecution and cruelty. They have so little regard for truth, the laws of the land, and constitution of the United States, that they have issued processes for my arrest as illegal as can be imagined, and they themselves are aware of it. Ex Governor Boggs of Missouri has made affidavit that I was "accessary before the fact of an assassination upon him with intent to kill on the evening of the sixth of May last." It happens well for truth and justice that about 6 or 7 thousand people know well that I was with the Legion both on the 6th and 7th of May in this City. This being proved has shown the designs of their undertaking viz, to persecute the innocents. A writ was issued by Gov. Carlin, and put into the hands of the Sheriff who immediately started for Nauvoo and on the 8th Ult arrested me at my own house, but their writ was proved to them to be illegal and unconstitutional. The Municipal Court also issued a writ of Habeas Corpus under which I was set at liberty from their hands. They returned, and a report went abroad that the matter would end there, but we did not expect it, and consequently I kept out of their way, and when they returned I was away. When Governor Carlin was informed of the proceedings of the Municipal Court, his anger got the master of his judgement and he disregarded our Charter and

would not pay any attention to it. Thereby impeaching the proceedings of Congress and proving himself to be not a whit better than his Colleague Boggs of Missouri. He dispatched the Sheriff back with orders to take me at all hazards and pay no regard to our charter. But I concluded it best to keep out of their way, which I have been enabled to do. After tarrying a little over a week they went back to Quincy. I suppose they tarried away untile they thought I should be off my guard and last friday they started again with a reinforcement and (it is said) a new writ determining to take me in the night; but in this they were again disapointed for they did not arrive untile noon on Saturday, and when they got here I soon got out of their way. Thus you see I am obliged to exile myself to save the lives of the people as well as my own life from day to day, and for no cause. Now will not all true lovers of liberty and sacred rights arise and proclaim against the authors of such bloodthirsty and cruel persecution? Will the public not defend the innocent and stamp with indignity all such proceedings? Yes, let the public who love the constitution of our country arise and expose to the four quarters of the Earth the mean, low, abominable and bloodthirsty conduct of those who are now seeking the innocents for no other purpose than to murder and spoil.

Brother Hyrum and the Twelve are on their way to your City and will give you every information on the subject. Yours in haste

Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith

Dr J. M. Bernhisel

14 Hudson St

City of New York

N. Y.

Nauvoo Sep.r 8th 1842

Dear Sir —

I have just received your very consoling letter dated August 16th 1842; which, I think, is the first letter you ever addressed to me: [illegible] you speak of the arrival of Dr Richards, and of his person, very respectfully. In this, I rejoice, for I am as warm a friend to Dr Richards, as he possibly can be to me. And in relation to his almost making a Mormon of yourself, it puts me in mind of the saying of Paul in his reply to Agrippa Acts chapter 26 verse 29 "I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." And I will here remark, my Dear Sir, that Mormonism, is the pure doctrine of Jesus Christ, of which I myself am not ashamed. You speak also, of Elder Foster, president of the Church in New York, in high terms: and of Dr. Bernhisel of New York, these men I am acquainted with, by information, and it warms my heart to know that you speak well of them; and as you say could be willing to associate with them [illegible] church, or acknowledged their faith. This, is a good principle for when we see virtuous qualities in men, we should always acknowledge them, let their understanding be what it may, in relation to creeds and doctrine; for all men are, or ought to be, free; possessing inalienable rights, and the high and noble qualifications of the laws

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of nature, and of self preservation; to think, and act, and say as they please while they maintain a due respect, to the rights, and privileges of all other creatures; infringing upon none. This doctrine, I do most heartily subscribe to, and practice; the testimony of mean men, to the contrary, notwithstanding. But Sir, I will assure you, that my soul soars far above all the mean, and grovelling dispositions of men, that are disposed to abuse me and my character; I therefore shall not dwell upon that subject. In relation to those men you speak of, referred to above; I will only say, that there are thousands of such men in this church; who, if a man is ~~to be~~ found worthy to associate with, will call down the envy of a mean world, because of their high and noble demeanor; and it is with unspeakable delight, that I contemplate them as my friends and brethren. I love them with a perfect love; and I hope they love me, and have no reason to doubt but they do.

The next in consideration, is John C. Bennett. I was, his friend; I am yet his friend; as I feel myself bound to be a friend to all the sons of Adam, wether they are just or unjust; they have a degree of my compassion & sympathy. If he is my enemy, it is his own fault; and the responsibility rests upon his own head, and instead of ~~a giving~~ his character before you; suffice it to say that his own conduct wherever he goes, will be sufficient to recommend him to an enlightened public, wether for a bad man, or a good one. Therefore, whoever will associate themselves

with him, may be assured that I will not persecute them; but I do not wish their association; and what I have said may suffice on that subject, so far as his character is concerned. Now in relation to his book, that he may write, I will venture a prophecy, that whoever has any hand in the matter, will find themselves in a poor fix, in relation to the money matters. And as to my having any fears of the influence that he may have against me, or any other man, or set of men may have is the most foreign from my heart; for I never knew what it was, as yet, to fear the face of clay, or the influence of man. My fear, sir, is before God. I fear to offend him, and strive to keep his commandments. I am realy glad that you did not join John C. in relation to his books; from the assurances which I have, that it will prove a curse to all those who touch it. In relation to the honors that you speak of, both for yourself, and for Mr J. G. Bennett of the Herald, you are both strangers to me; and as John C. Bennett kept all his letters which he received from you, entirely to himself; and there was no correspondence between you and me that I knew of, I had no opportunity to share very largely, in the getting up of any of those matters. I could not, as I had not sufficient knowledge to enable me to do so. The whole therefore, was at the instigation of John C. Bennett, and a quiet submission on the part of the rest, out of the best of feelings. But as for myself it was all done at a time when I was overwhelmed with a great many business cares, as well as the care of

all the churches. I must be excused therefore for any wrongs that may have taken place, in relation to this matter. And so far as I obtain a knowledge of that which is right, shall meet with my hearty approval. I feel to tender you my most hearty & sincere thanks for every expression of kindness you have tendered toward me or my brethren, and would beg the privilege of obtruding myself a little while upon your patience in offering a short relation of my circumstances. I am at this time persecuted the worst of any man on the earth; as well as this people, here in this place; and all our sacred rights, are trampled under the feet of the mob. I am now hunted as an hart by the mob, under the pretense, or shadow of law, to cover their abominable deeds. An unhallowed demand has been made from the Governor of Missouri on oath of Governor Boggs, that I made an attempt to assassinate him, on the night of the sixth of May, when on that day ~~that~~ I was attending the officers drill and answered to my name when the roll was called and on the seventh. it is well known, by the thousands that assembled here in Nauvoo, that I was at my post in reviewing the Nauvoo Legion in the presence of twelve thousand people, and the Gov. of the State of Illinois, notwithstanding his being knowing to all these facts, yet he immediately granted a writ, and by an unhallowed usurpation, has taken away our chartered rights, and denied the rights of Habeas Corpus; and I am informed has now about thirty of the most blood-thirsty kind of men ~~from their [illegible]~~ on their way to this place in search for me, threatening death, and destruction, and extermination upon all the Mormons; and searching my house almost continually from day to day, menacing, and threatening,

and intimidating an innocent wife and children; and insulting them in a most diabolical manner, threatening their lives &c, if I am not to be found; with a gang of Missourians with them, saying they will have me dead or alive, and if alive, they will carry me to Missouri in chains; and when there, they will kill me at all hazards. And all this is back'd up, and urged on, by the Gov. of this State, with all the rage of a demon, putting at defiance the constitution of this State - our chartered rights, and the constitution of the United States; for not as yet, have they done one thing that was in accordance to them; while all the citizens of this city, en masse, have petitioned the Governor with remonstrances, and overtures, that would have melted the heart of an adamantine, to no effect. And at the same time, if any of us open our mouths, to plead our own cause, in the defence of law and justice, we are instantly threatened with Militia extermination. Great God! when shall the oppressor cease to prey and glut itself upon innocent blood. Where is patriotism? Where is liberty? Where is the boast of this proud, and haughty nation? O, humanity! where hast thou fled? hast thou flee forever.

I now appeal to you, sir, inasmuch as you have subscribed yourself our friend; will you lift your voice, and your arm, with indignation, against such unhallowed oppression. I must say sir, that my bosom swells, with unutterable anguish, when I contemplate the scenes of horror

that we have passed through in the State of Missouri and then look, and behold, and see the storm, and cloud, gathering ten times blacker - ready to burst upon the heads of this innocent people. Would to God that I were able to throw off the yoke. Shall we bow down and be slaves? Is there no friends of humanity, in a nation that boasts itself so much? Will not the Nation rise up and defend us? If they will not defend us, will they not grant, to lend a voice of indignation, against such unhallowed oppression? Must the tens of thousands bow down to slavery and degradation? Let the pride of the Nation arise, and wrench these shackles from the feet of their fellow citizens; and their quiet, and peaceable, and innocent and loyal subjects. But I must forbear, for I cannot express my feelings. The Legion, would all willingly die in the defence of their rights; but what would this accomplish? I have kept down their indignation, and kept a quiet submission on all hands, and am determined to do so, at all hazards. Our enemies shall not have it to say, that we rebel against government, or commit treason; however much they may lift their hands in oppression, and tyranny, when it comes in the form of Government. We tamely submit, although it lead us to the slaughter, and to beggary; but our blood be upon their garments, and those who look tamely on, and boast of patriotism shall not be without their condemnation.

And if men are such fools, as to let once, the precedent be established, and through their prejudices, give assent, to such abomination, then let the oppressors hand lay heavily throughout the world; untill all flesh shall feel it together; and untile they may know, that the Almighty takes cognizance of such things; and then shall church rise up against church; and party against party; mob against mob; oppressor against oppressor; army against army; and kingdom against kingdom; and people against people; and kindred against kindred. And where, sir, will be your safety, or the safety of your children. If my children can be led to the slaughter with impunity, by the hands of murderous rebels; will they not lead yours to the slaughter, with the same impunity? Ought not then, this oppression sir, to be checked in the bud; and to be looked down, with just indignation by an enlightened world; before the flame become unextinguishable, and, the fire devour the stubble. But, again I say, I must forbear; and leave this painful subject. I wish you would write to me in answer to this and let me know your views. On my part, I am ready to be offered up a sacrifice, in that way that can bring to pass, the greatest benefit, and good, to those who must necessarily be interested, in this important matter. ~~I have dictated this letter, while my clerk is writing for me, and~~ I would to God that you could know all my feelings on this subject

and the real facts in relation to this people, and their unrelenting persecution. And if any man, feels an interest in the welfare of their fellow-beings, and would think of saying or doing any thing in this matter, I would suggest the propriety of a committee of wise men being sent, to ascertain the justice or injustice of our cause to get in possession of all the facts; and then make report to an enlightened world, whether we individually, or collectively, are deserving such high-handed treatment.

In relation to the books that you sent here, John C. Bennett put them into my store, to be sold on commission saying, that when I were able, the money must be remitted to yourself; Nothing was said about any consecration to the Temple.

Another calamity has befallen us; our Post Office in this place is exceedingly corrupt. It is with great difficulty that we can get our letters to or from our friends. Our letters are broken open and robbed of their contents - Our papers that we send to our subscribers, are embezzled, and burned or wasted. We get no money from our subscribers, and very little information from abroad; and what little we do get, we get by private means, in consequence of these things. And I am sorry to say, that this robbing of the Post Office - of money, was carried on by John C. Bennett, and since he left here, it is carried on by the means of his confederates.

I now subscribe myself your friend, and a patriot and lover of my country, pleading at their feet for protection, and deliverance by the justice of their constitutions. I add no more. Your most obedient servant

Joseph Smith.

P.S. I have dictated this letter while my clerk is writing for me.

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